

ROCKLAND FINANCE COMMITTEE  
ROCKLAND TOWN HALL  
ROCKLAND, MA 02370

April 14, 2010

In attendance at the April 14, 2010 Finance Committee meeting were Bill Allen, John Ellard, Rich Penney, Bob MacDonald, Joe Gambon, Julie Shaffer, Rachel Gear, Dolores Baronas, Caryn Stevens and Paula Ferguson. Absent was Ian Curran.

The meeting was brought to order at 6:38 p.m. by Chairman John Ellard.

A motion was made by Rich Penney and seconded by Bob MacDonald to accept the minutes from the April 7, 2010 meeting. A unanimous vote was taken.

John Loughlin from the Sewer Department was present to discuss his articles. Article 10 was to rescind the article from last year as state funding did not come through. A motion was made by Bill, seconded by Rich to approve this article. A unanimous vote was taken.

Article 11 to take \$300,000 from the Sewer Department development Fund. A motion was made by Bill, seconded by Rich to approve. A unanimous vote was taken.

Kelli McKinnon opened the meeting for the Capital Planning at 6:44.

Article 12 is for the purchase of of influent and effluent pumps. Capital Planning had approved this article with the money coming from sewer receipts. Rich made the motion to approve, seconded by Bill. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board of Health was present to discuss their budgets. They have a savings of \$130,000 from the Waste Department Budget due to great negotiations. The Board of Health's salary budget is increased \$700.00 due to longevity and step raises. The Visiting Nurse Budget increased 2 ½% due to the over-ride with an increase of \$206.00.

Article 8 is the South Shore VoTech “over-ride” for windows and roof. We need clarification if Capital Planning needs to get involved as they have not been contacted as of this date. Eric Hart will research this and check with Town Counsel. A motion was made by Rich to table this article, seconded by Bill. 8 in favor, one opposed (Paula).

Article 23 was discussed with Capital Planning. They suggested half of the lease amount come from the fire department budget. They were looking for additional information from the fire department but have not heard back. Eric Hart suggested a debt exclusion or take it out of the budget or a long term lease.

A suggestion was made to not use free cash or overlay reserve to fund operational budgets. It was also suggested that a % of the purchase/lease be taken out of the requesting department's budget.

Article 29: The Water Department did not bring the funding source to the Capital Planning. It is currently not a part of the five year plan with Capital Planning.

Kelli McKinnon closed the meeting of the Capital planning at 8:03.

Article 35 regarding the Library Revolving Account. A motion was made to reconsider this article by Rachel, seconded by Bill. A unanimous vote was taken. Kathleen Looney spoke about the library currently being understaffed and is only open 41 hours, not open on Saturdays. They need to spend 15% of their budget on books and materials. Rachel brought up that if they needed more money, they should have added it on the over-ride amount in order to avoid the “band aid” solution. Eric Hart brought up the fact that once you allow people to set up revolving accounts with money that is currently brought into the general fund that other departments will also start this practice. It was felt by the committee that if they had a new funding source then consideration could be given for a revolving account. A motion was made by Rich, seconded by Julie to still disapprove this article. 5 voted for disapproval of this article, Dolores and Paula voted against disapproval.

Eric Hart brought up the reduction of Chapter 70 money but will be offset with stimulus money going to the schools. We will need to reduce the school budget \$194914 and they will recover it with federal stimulus money.

Article 1 of the regular town meeting regarding town elections. A motion was made by Rich to approve this article, seconded by Rachel. A unanimous vote was taken.

Article 2 regarding salaries of elected officials. Rich made the motion to approve, seconded by Bill. A unanimous vote was taken.

Article 6 regarding Fines. A motion to approve made by Bill, seconded by Rachel. Discussion was made as to the amount of \$300.00 being set and not saying “up to \$300.00” seemed to be the concern. The motion was voted down with 2 in favor (Bill and Rachel) and 6 opposed.

Article 9 regarding zoning map changes. A motion was made by Bill, seconded by Dolores to refer back to Zoning. A unanimous vote was taken.

Article 13 regarding the deputy police position, a motion was made by Bob to reconsider, seconded by Rich. A unanimous vote was taken. Discussion was made in the fact that this is currently going to court and the Finance Committee should remain neutral with this article. A motion was made by Rich to refer to the Board of Selectmen, seconded by Bob. 7 voted for, Rachel opposed and Paula abstained.

Article 16 regarding the lease/purchase of the voting machines, Rich made a motion to approve, seconded by Julie. A unanimous vote was taken.

Article 20 regarding funding for the Energy Committee, Bill made a motion to disapprove, seconded by Rachel. 6 voted for, 2 against (Rich and Paula).

Article 36 regarding fines for violations of zoning bylaws of \$300.00 per day. Dolores made a motion to disapprove, seconded by Bill. 7 voted to disapprove, 1 voted against disapproval (Rich).

Article 37 regarding Home Occupation Rich made the motion to refer to zoning, seconded by Joe. A unanimous vote was taken.

Article 38 regarding Land Alteration regulation, Rich made the motion to refer to Zoning, seconded by Bob. A unanimous vote was taken.

Article 46 regarding the lease/purchase of a mini-bus, Joe made the motion to approve, seconded by Julie. 6 voted in favor, 2 opposed (Rich and Bill).

Article 47 regarding zoning district, Bill made the motion to refer to Zoning, seconded by Julie. A unanimous vote was taken.

Article 48 regarding deed and transfer of custody to the Rockland Conversation Commission, a motion was made by Rich to refer to the Open Space Committee, seconded by Bob. A unanimous vote was taken.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** There will be the naming of the Town Forest on May 2<sup>nd</sup> followed by a cookout.

**NEXT MEETING:** April 22, 2010 at 6:30 in the lower conference room.

A motion was made to adjourn at 9:32 p.m. by Rich, seconded by Dolores. A unanimous vote was taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Ferguson  
Secretary  
Rockland Finance Committee